

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6266

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 17840

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, CI

SUBJECT: FRG RELATIONS WITH CHILE

REF: SANTIAGO 6824

1. IN NOVEMBER 12 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS, NOELLE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF DESK FOR WESTERN LATIN AMERICA IN FONOFF, CONFIRMED THAT MINISTER OF STATE WISCHNEWSKI WILL "ALMOST CERTAINLY" VISIT CHILE DURING WEEK OF NOVEMBER 18. NOELLE SAID THAT WISCHNEWSKI, AS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS PREVIOUS VISIT, WOULD BE PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE TREATMENT OF FORMER MEMBERS OF THE CHILEAN RADICAL PARTY IN WHICH WISCHNEWSKI'S PARTY, THE SPD HAD TAKEN A PARTICULAR INTEREST.

2. NOELLE SAID THAT AID MINISTER BAHR'S RADIO STATEMENT OF LAST WEEK, OPPOSING FURTHER CAPITAL ASSISTANCE TO CHILE, WAS BY NO MEANS THE LAST WORD ON THE SUBJECT. EVIDENTLY A DISPUTE HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE AID MINISTRY ON THE OTHER HAND, AS TO HOW ECONOMIC

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AND AID RELATIONS WITH CHILE SHOULD BE HANDLED. FOREIGN

MINISTER GENSCHER AND ECONOMICS MINISTER FRIDERICH, BOTH OF THE FDP, FAVOR THE MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF ACTIVE ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND OF SOME FORM OF AID PROGRAM. IN THIS, THEY HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE OPPOSITION CDU/CSU. BAHR, GENERALLY SUPPORTED BY THE LEFT WING OF THE SPD, HAS COME OUT IN OPPOSITION TO FURTHER AID, POINTING TO THE FACT THAT THE FRG ALSO CEASED ITS AID PROGRAM TO GREECE WHEN THE JUNTA WAS IN CONTROL. BAHR STATED THAT, WHILE HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE SHOULD IN PRINCIPLE BE MADE DEPENDENT ON THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT A COUNTRY HAS, THERE WERE ALSO LIMITS BEYOND WHICH ONE COULD NOT GO. NOELLE SAID THAT GENSCHER AND FRIDERICH HAD MET RECENTLY TO DISCUSS STRATEGY FOR DEALING WITH THE SITUATION, THAT THEY WOULD BE DISCUSSING IT WITH BAHR UPON THE LATTER'S RETURN FROM THE SUDAN, AND THAT IT WAS NOT YET CLEAR WHAT THE FINAL RESULT WOULD BE. IN ANY CASE, THERE IS NO INTENTION OF HAVING ON-GOING CAPITAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS IN CHILE, NOR OF LIMITING EXPORT CREDITS. NOELLE COMMENTED THAT GERMAN BUSINESSMEN CONTINUED TO SHOW A LIVELY INTEREST IN CHILE.

3. NOELLE DID NOT INDICATE THAT WISCHNEWSKI PLANNED TO MAKE ANY SPECIFIC CONNECTION DURING HIS VISIT BETWEEN FRG AID AND THE ATTITUDE OF THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT ON HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS. HE IMPLIED THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF AN FRG POLICY DECISION (WHICH ALMOST CERTAINLY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE TIME OF WISCHNEWSKI'S VISIT), ANY SUCH CONNECTION COULD AT MOST BE IMPLICIT IN THE SITUATION.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE DM 21 MILLION COMMODITY CREDIT, ON WHICH A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN CONCLUDED DURING ALLENDE'S TENURE, NOELLE SAID THAT IT WAS STILL VERY MUCH A LIVE ISSUE. THE QUESTION WAS NOT WHETHER IT WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED BUT WHEN AND UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES.

5. NOELLE SAID THAT, OF THE REMAINING PRISONERS WHO HAVE SOME PROSPECT OF BEING RELEASED IN THE NEAR FUTURE

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(HE HAD HEARD FIGURES RANGING BETWEEN 700 AND 3,000), THE FRG ESTIMATED THAT AS MANY AS 350 MIGHT COME TO EUROPE, NOT ALL OF COURSE TO THE FRG.

HILLENBRAND

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